GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1271
ANSWERED ON:30.07.2001
FOREST COVER IN HILLY AND RURAL AREAS
P.D. ELANGOVAN

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have earmarked any zones as far as the forest cover is concerned in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise ; and

(c) the measures taken by the Government to improve the forest cover in the country particularly in the hilly/ rural areas?

Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R.BAALU)

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Forest cover of the country has increased by 3896 sq.km i.e. from 6,33,397 sq.km to 6,37, 293 sq.km in the period from 1996 to 1998. During this period, a net increase of 600 sq.km of forest cover has been registered in the hill districts of the country. State-wise details of the forest cover as per the State of Forest Report, 1999 are given in the Annexure.

(c) Various measures taken to improve forest cover in the country are:

(i) Afforestation programmes are undertaken by State/UT Governments from their own resources as well as with financial assistance from Government of India.

(ii) Externally aided projects are being implemented for development and preservation of forests.

(iii) Guidelines issued to all State/UT Governments to involve village communities in protection and regeneration of degraded forests.

(iv) Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 has been enacted to regulate the diversion of forest lands.

(v) A net work of protected areas has been established.

(vi) Ministry has prepared a National Forestry Action Plan to enhance the contribution of forestry and tree resources for ecological stability and people centered development through improvement in investment for conservation and development of forest resources.

ANNEXURE

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN PART (b) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1271 FOR 30.07.2001 REGARDING FOREST COVER IN HILLY AND RURAL AREAS

Forest cover in States/UTs as per State of Forest Report 1999

State/UT	Forest cover Area in sq.km	Forest cover percentage of geographical area
Andhra Pradesh	44,229	16.08
Arunachal Pradesh	68,847	82.21
Assam	23,688	33.20
Bihar	26,474	15.23
Goa	1,251	33.79
Gujarat	12,965	6.61
Haryana	964	2.18
Himachal Pradesh	13,082	23.50
Jammu & Kashmir	20,441	9.20
Karnataka	32,467	16.93

Kerala	10,323	26.56
Madhya Pradesh	131,830	29.73
Maharashtra	46,672	15.17
Manipur	17,384	77.86
Meghalaya	15,633	69.7
Mizoram	18,338	86.99
Nagaland	14,164	85.43
Orissa	47,033	30.2
Punjab	1,412	2.80
Rajasthan	13,871	4.05
Sikkim	3,118	43.94
Tamil Nadu	17,078	13.13
Tripura	5,745	54.79
Uttar Pradesh	34,016	11.55
West Bengal	8,362	9.42
A&N Islands	7,606	92.21
Chandigarh	7	6.14
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	202	41.14
Daman & Diu	3	2.68
Delhi	88	5.93
Lakshdweep	Negligible	
Pondicherry	Negligible	
Total	637,293	19.39